



PLANNING STUDY *and* ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

MARCH 2010

SOUTHEAST EXTENSION: FINDING A SOLUTION ■

The North Carolina Turnpike Authority has embarked on a study to explore options for addressing transportation needs with the proposed Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension project. Rapid population growth in Wake and Johnston counties is forecast to increase strain on existing roads. As part of this study, the Turnpike Authority will investigate potential solutions for meeting current and future transportation needs in this area.

The Triangle Expressway, from Interstate 40 at NC 147 in Durham County south to NC 55 Bypass near Apex, is currently under construction and is scheduled to open to traffic in late 2012. The Southeast Extension would

extend the Triangle Expressway and complete the 540 Outer Loop. It will be studied as a toll facility and likely would be constructed in phases. Phase I is between NC 55 in Apex and Interstate 40 near the Johnston/Wake County line. Phase II continues the project at Interstate 40, ending at US 64/US 264 Bypass in Knightdale. The entire project is nearly 30 miles long.

The Southeast Extension study will consider various solutions for addressing area transportation needs. These studies will consider several options, including improving existing roads and building a new roadway, along with non-roadway options such as mass transit. With extensive community participation, the Turnpike Authority expects to identify and finalize a route for the Southeast Extension and begin construction of Phase I in 2014.

What is an EIS?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for major federal actions that are expected to significantly impact the environment.

(For more information go to <http://environment.fhwa.dot.gov/index.asp>.)

An EIS is a detailed report that defines the transportation problem, discusses the range of possible solutions considered, discloses the impacts possible solutions would have on the human and natural environments, summarizes involvement with the public and other stakeholders, and aids in making decisions about the project.

The EIS process includes the following four major milestones:

1 Notice of Intent (NOI): The NOI is published in the Federal Register, signaling the initiation of the EIS process (Nov. 2009 for this project).

2 Draft EIS: After publication of the Draft EIS, there are public hearings and a formal comment period.

3 Final EIS: The Final EIS addresses comments received on the Draft EIS and identifies the preferred route for the project.

4 Record of Decision (ROD):

The ROD identifies the selected route for the project, explains why it was chosen, and provides information on ways to minimize and compensate for project impacts.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME ■

Community participation is a core element of the transportation planning process. A successful Southeast Extension study will depend on engaging community members and stakeholders to identify area transportation needs, quality of life concerns, community values and potential project solutions.

We encourage you to participate actively in the Southeast Extension study. There are several different ways you can participate and stay informed:

- **Participate in public workshops and events.** The Turnpike Authority will hold public workshops and events throughout the study process to provide information and receive your input about the project. We plan to hold the first series of workshops this summer.
- **Request a small group meeting.** The Turnpike Authority is available to meet with interested community organizations, neighborhood associations and others throughout the project's development. Please contact the Turnpike Authority to arrange a small group meeting.
- **Contact us with questions and comments.** You can contact the Turnpike Authority by phone, e-mail or traditional mail. You are also welcome to discuss the project with us via our project blog. *(Please see back page for contact information.)*

WHERE IS THE PROJECT STUDY AREA? ■

The map (below/above) shows the study area for the Southeast Extension project. The Turnpike Authority will consider a range of project routes within this study area. The complete study area includes parts of southern and eastern Wake County and northern Johnston County, as well as parts of eight municipalities—Apex, Holly Springs, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Raleigh, Knightdale and Clayton—along with several rural communities, such as Willow Spring and McCullers Crossroads.

The route shown for Phase I is the protected corridor for this part of the project. Phase II does not have a protected corridor; the route shown for Phase II is one potential route and is shown for reference.

PROTECTED CORRIDOR: ONE OF SEVERAL POSSIBLE ROUTES ■

A protected corridor preserves the location of a new road from encroaching development. In the mid-1990s, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), under the Transportation Corridor Official Map Act, established a protected corridor for Phase I of the Southeast Extension between NC 55 in Apex and Interstate 40 near the Johnston/Wake County line. The Turnpike Authority will evaluate the protected corridor, as well as other possible routes, as part of this study. The study area map on the opposite page shows the location of the protected corridor for Phase I.

WHAT'S NEXT? ■

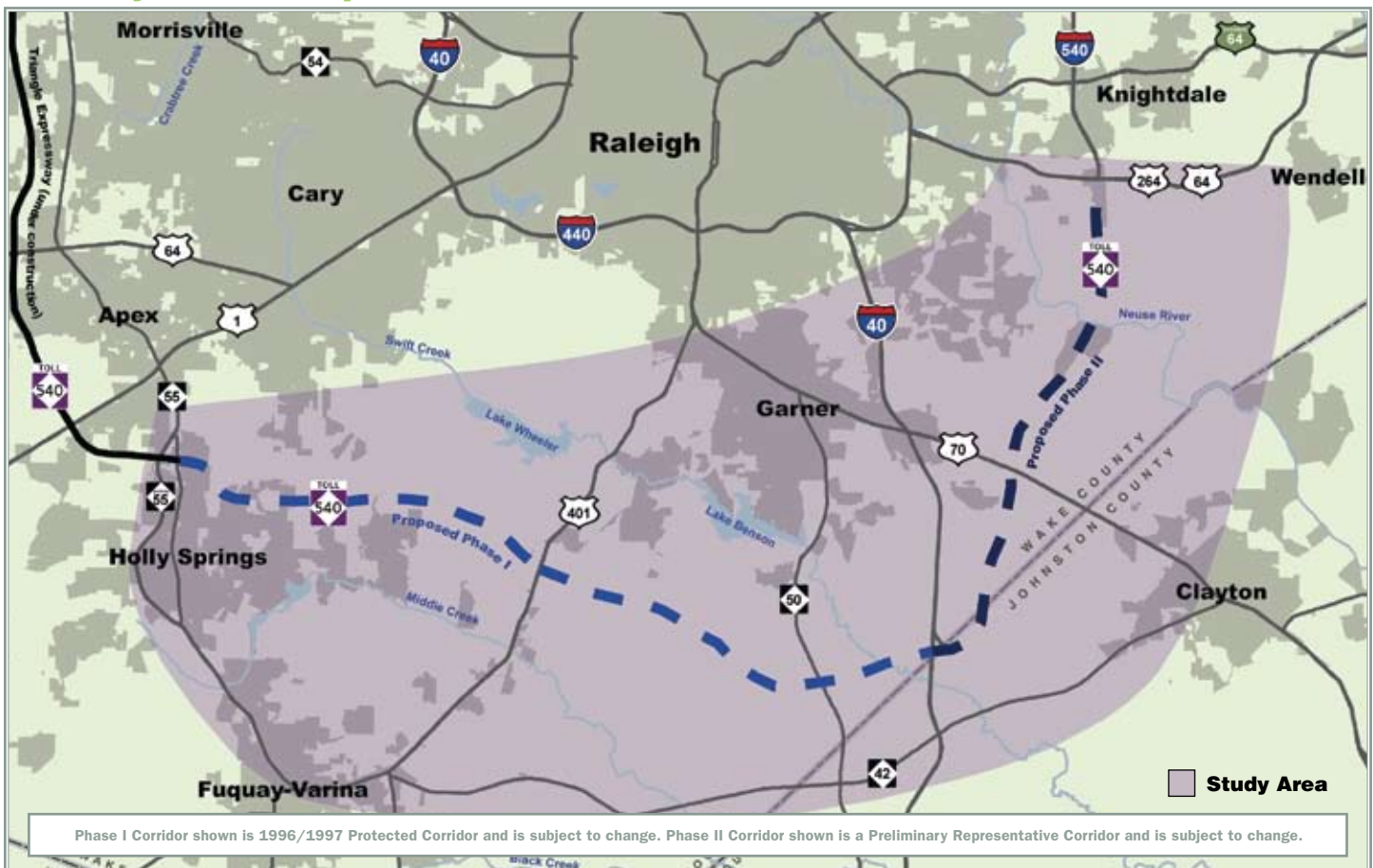
The Turnpike Authority is currently collecting project area data, identifying local needs and beginning to develop concepts shaping the project's purpose. The study team will soon begin identifying possible routes, conducting environmental field studies and documenting community characteristics. The Turnpike Authority will hold public input events throughout this study and plans to hold the first series of public workshops this summer.

The Turnpike Authority expects to identify the most reasonable routes for the project later this year and will document the potential impacts of these routes in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The publication of the Draft EIS and the remaining project milestones are tentatively scheduled as follows:

• Draft Environmental Impact Statement	2012
• Final Environmental Impact Statement	2013
• Final Approval of Project Route (Record of Decision)	2013
• Phase I Construction Begins*	2014
• Phase II Corridor Protection	2014
• Phase I of Southeast Extension Open to Traffic	2019

* Contingent upon availability of funding.

Study Area Map





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Let Us Know What You Think!

Your thoughts and questions are important to us. We encourage your input and there are many ways you can reach us:

Web | Visit our website at www.ncturnpike.org/projects/southeast/
and our project blog at southeastextension.blogspot.com.

E-mail | Send us a comment via e-mail to southeast@ncturnpike.org.

Telephone | Call our toll-free hotline at **1-800-554-7849**.

Letter | Send your letter to: **Ms. Jennifer Harris, P.E.**
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